WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

DICTIONARY
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COMPUTER TERMS

EIGHTH EDITION

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Bryan Pfaffenberger

THE NAME YOU TRUST

Dedication

For Suzanne, always

...hare A file server utility for AppleTalk networks.
...transforms any Macintosh on the network into
...file server; the server's hard disk icon appears on
...rk user's desktop.

...A small- to medium-sized computer program that
...specific function, such as emulating a calculator. **2.** In
...program embedded in a Web document that, when
...d, is executed by the browser. Both of the leading
...Netscape Communicator and Microsoft Internet
...can execute Java applets. See *Java applet* and *Java*

...lk A local area network (LAN) standard developed by
...omputer. AppleTalk can link as many as 32 Macintosh
...rs, IBM PC-compatible computers, and peripherals
...aser printers. Every Macintosh computer has an
...lk port; the only hardware required for an AppleTalk
...is a set of LocalTalk connectors and ordinary telephon...
...cables (called twisted-pair cable). AppleTalk networks
...ple and inexpensive but quite slow; they are capable of
...tting only up to 230 Kbps. EtherTalk, in contrast, is
...of speeds of up to 10 million bps. See *EtherTalk*.

...ation A program that enables you to do something
...with the computer, such as writing or accounting
...posed to utilities, programs that help you maintain
...omputer)

...ication Configuration Access Protocol (ACAP)
...osed Internet standard that transfers crucial user config...
...settings (including address books, bookmarks, and opti...
...ces) to an Internet-accessible file. Because these settin...
...d on the network instead of the user's computer, the...
...ssible no matter which computer is being used. ACA...
...tly benefit anyone who accesses the Internet from m...
...computer.

...plication control menu See *control menu*.

...plication development system A coordinated
...am development tools, typically including a full-scr...
...programming language with a compiler, linker, and...

and an extensive library of ready-to-use program modules. The
use of an application development system lets experienced users
develop a standalone application more easily than writing a pro-
gram using a language such as C++ or COBOL.

application heap In a Macintosh, the base memory, the area
of memory set aside for user programs.

application icon In Microsoft Windows 95/98, an onscreen
graphic representation of a minimized program. The icon
appears on the taskbar to remind you that the application is still
present in memory. Double-click the application icon to switch
to that program.

application layer In the Open System Interconnection (OSI)
...ive model of computer network architecture, the first or
...t of seven layers, in which the data is presented to the
...of this layer, protocols are needed to ensure that products
...different manufacturers can work together. For exam-
...e-mail program should use the same protocols for
...and receiving e-mail. When the data is ready to be sent
...network, it is passed down the protocol stack to the next
...its presentation layer.

application level encryption In a computer network, the
...of encryption by individual applications rather
...the operating system or network level. Web browsers
...support encryption at this level.

application program See *application*.

application program interface (API) **1.** A set of standards
...by which programs can call specific operating
...or network services. **2.** In Web servers, the standards or
...that a program to originate a call to a pro-
...within the server. See *CGI*, *ISAPI*, and
...

application shortcut key In Microsoft Windows, a shortcut
...to launch or bring an application to the fore-
...Application shortcuts are also available in applica-
...your PC's Desktop to launch and
...

operand The argument that is appended to an operator, such as a spreadsheet program's built-in function. For example, in the Excel expression AVERAGE(D10:D24), the cell range D10 to D24 is the operand of the AVERAGE function.

operating environment The total context in which applications function, including the operating system (OS) and the shell.

operating system (OS) A master control program that manages the computer's internal functions, such as accepting keyboard input, and that provides a means to control the computer's operations and file system.

operating voltage The electrical voltage at which a microprocessor operates. Most microprocessors have operating voltages of 5 volts—a mostly arbitrary specification decided upon when the transistor was invented—but some chips run at 3.3 volts to save electricity (a real concern in portable computers) and reduce heat output.

operator In programming, a code name or symbol that is used to describe a command or function, such as multiplying or dividing.

optical character recognition See *OCR*.

optical disk A large-capacity data storage medium for computers on which information is stored at extremely high density in the form of tiny pits. The presence or absence of these pits is read by a tightly focused laser beam. CD-ROMs and CD-R drives offer an increasingly economical medium for storing data and programs. Write-once, read-many (WORM) drives enable organizations to create their own huge, in-house databases. Erasable optical disk drives offer more storage than hard disks and the CDs are removable. However, they are still more expensive and much slower than hard disks. See *interactive*.

optical fiber See *fiber optics*.

optical mouse A mouse that does not require the cleaning a mechanical mouse does, but that must be used with a special mouse pad. An optical mouse shines a beam of light onto a grid in the mouse pad, which conveys the mouse's position to the computer.